

National Park Service  
2006 Environmental Achievement Awards

**Honorable Mention**

*“Planet EVERgreen protecting and preserving “The Last Frontier”*  
Doyon/ARAMARK Joint Venture (Concessioner)

The Doyon/ARAMARK Denali National Park Joint Venture (Doyon/ARAMARK) made a commendable effort in 2005 to help protect Denali National Park natural resources for future generations. By providing transportation, food, and retail services to Park visitors in an environmentally sensitive manner, this concessioner capitalized upon an opportunity to help protect Park resources in a remote area. Utilizing PlantEVERgreen, an environmental management system that was certified to the ISO 14001 standard, Doyon/ARAMARK focused its environmental efforts in eight key categories:

- **Procurement and Purchasing:** Doyon/ARAMARK implemented an environmentally preferable purchasing policy and as a result, purchases the following items, among others: Easy-Nap napkin dispensers which dispense only one napkin at a time, Earthshell™ food wraps that are biodegradable, and several other environmentally preferable retail products.
- **Interpretive Programs:** Environmental information is incorporated into interpretive program tours for Park visitors; visitor survey questions are also used to gauge the effectiveness of environmental information provided during bus tours.
- **Education and Training:** All employees receive training on Doyon/ARAMARK’s environmental management system (EMS). Even the small number of employees who arrive during the middle of the season are trained via a videorecording of the EMS training that occurred earlier in the season. Each department has an EMS bulletin board that highlights Doyon/ARAMARK’s commitment to the environment and also provides information on EMS objectives and targets and ways in which employees can help meet those objectives and targets. All employees are encouraged to offer suggestions and voice issues through an anonymous suggestion box. Finally, Doyon/ARAMARK uses fun and innovative EMS training methods for its employees to help make the message stick, including Jeopardy and Bingo games as well as publishing “The Recycled Toilet Paper,” which highlights all things environmental and is placed on the backside of employee restroom doors.
- **Culinary Practices:** Doyon/ARAMARK utilizes local and/or organically grown food products for sale at their restaurant. They follow Monterey Bay Seafood Watch Program guidelines and serve only those approved fish species as identified by the Program. The restaurant serves locally grown food such as Alaska halibut, salmon, as well as reindeer meat. The process used to collect and transport kitchen grease was modified in 2005 resulting in fewer spills which oftentimes attracted animal wildlife; the kitchen grease was then donated to a vendor who reused it as biodiesel.
- **Water and Energy Conservation:** In 2005, Doyon/ARAMARK replaced two non-Energy Star® qualified copy machines with two Energy Star qualified machines. Doyon/ARAMARK also replaced five top-loading washing machines and electric dryers with five front-loading washing machines and propane-fired dryers.

- **Transportation:** A large portion of the operation at Doyon/ARAMARK is related to transportation. A fleet of 100 buses and support vehicles transport thousands of visitors each year to various points throughout the Park. Air filters were installed on the buses reducing particulates, carbon monoxide, and hydrocarbon emissions by 70 percent when using low-sulfur diesel. Another environmental concern is the amount of dust generated from buses traveling long distances on unpaved roads. To address this, Doyon/ARAMARK implemented a no-dust speed when passing pedestrians on the Park road. Also, all buses follow a low-air pressure program whereby less dust is spread when traveling on unpaved roads.
- **Waste Management Reduction:** During 2005, Doyon/ARAMARK worked to increase recycling by 26 percent as compared to 2004 levels. Recycling bins were placed in every employee housing unit and employees and guests were educated on the recycling efforts of Doyon/ARAMARK. Other waste management efforts include recycling propylene glycol antifreeze, recycling used bus and vehicle tires, reusing packing peanuts in the retail operation, and recycling fluorescent lamps and batteries.
- **Sustainable Building Design:** To date, Doyon/ARAMARK has utilized sustainable design practices in several of their buildings. This includes using the following environmentally preferable building items: biodegradable tectum ceiling tiles made from aspen fibers, Tirex (recycled tires) flooring in heavy traffic entry areas, locally grown spruce for exterior and interior finishes, and bamboo flooring.

Moving forward, Doyon/ARAMARK is assisting Denali National Park in additional interpretive planning efforts and has fully embraced complete implementation of its Planet EVERgreen EMS for the future.